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(54) Printing apparatus and method for more than five colors.

(57) A method for producing a large gamut output print, the method including the steps of providing an input digital representation of a color image in a three color input space in memory, and converting the input digital representation into an output digital representation of the color image in an at least five color output space.

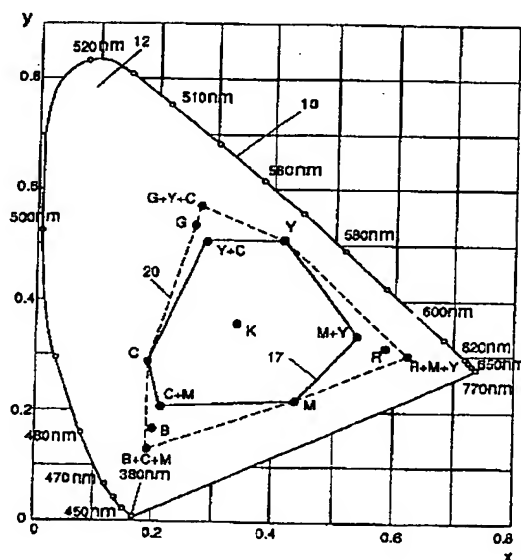


FIG. 2

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to more than four color printing systems generally.

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Conventional color printing presses typically print output prints with four or fewer inks, where the inks are typically cyan, magenta, yellow and black (CMYK). For each ink color, a color separation film is produced, marking the locations where the specific ink is to be placed.

10 The press places ink on the output print four times, one for each color, in accordance with the corresponding color separation films. The resultant colors are combinations of the colors of the printed inks.

Color separation and color printing are described in detail in the publication, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference:

15 Electronic Color Separation, by R.K Molla, published by Chapman Printing Company, Parkersburg, W. Virginia, U.S.A., 1988.

A sample picture printed with four different inks is provided in Fig. 1.

The visible color space is a three-dimensional space for which a plurality of standard and non-standard coordinate systems have been defined. One standard coordinate systems includes a luminance coordinate, Y, and two chromaticity coordinates x and y.

20 When it is desired to print a color outside the gamut of the printing press, it is known in the art to overprint an additional ink, typically of the desired color, in certain areas of the image. For example, if a photograph of an automobile is being reproduced and the color of the automobile is a specific red not within the gamut of the printing press, a special ink, of the desired red, is selected and an additional color separation film is produced to indicate where the extra ink is to be placed in addition to the regular printing inks.

25 The process of utilizing an extra color separation is known in the art as "touch-plate" printing and is common for high quality printing.

An article by Harald Kupperts, entitled "Printing by Septichromy", appeared as an extract of a conference given by Kupperts at a Colorix Seminary in Paris. The Kupperts article suggests that, to increase the gamut of a printing press, two colors, plus a black color, may be selected from among seven specific colors including a black color.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for printing in more than four colors.

35 There is therefore provided, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a method for producing a large gamut output print, the method including the steps of providing an input digital representation of a color image in a three color input space in memory, and converting the input digital representation into an output digital representation of the color image in an at least five color output space.

40 Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the method also includes the step of unsharp masking the input digital representation before the step of converting.

Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the at least five color output space includes a no more than seven color output space.

45 Additionally in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the step of unsharp masking is performed twice, creating first and second separately sharpened input representations, and wherein the step of converting includes the step of converting the first and second input representations to first and second output representations, defined in approximately complementary color spaces, wherein the first and second output representations together form the output digital representation in the at least five-color output space.

Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the step of unsharp masking is performed with two different sets of parameters.

50 Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the second input representation differs in sharpness, relative to the first input representation.

Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the 5 colors includes at least one of a redlike color, a greenlike color or a bluelike color.

55 Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the 5 colors includes at least one of the following colors: orange, green and violet.

Additionally in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the input digital representation represents an input medium.

Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the method also includes

the step of displaying the output digital representation on a monitor.

Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the step of converting is performed by a LookUp Table (LUT).

5 Additionally in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the method also includes the step of printing the color image from the output digital representation in cyan-like, magenta-like, yellow-like, black-like colors and in at least one of the following group of colors: red-like, green-like and blue-like.

Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the method includes the steps of prescanning an input medium to provide the input digital representation, modifying the LUT in accordance with user input, rescanning the input medium to produce a new input digital representation and converting the new input digital representation with the modified LUT.

10 There is also provided, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a method for producing a converter to convert an input digital representation in an input color space to an output digital representation in an at least five color output space, the method including the steps of receiving a first converter being operative to perform transformations from an input color space to a four color output space and generating a second converter from the first converter, the second converter being operative to perform transformations from the input color space to an at least five color output space including the four colors and at least one extra color.

Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the step of generating includes the step of nonlinearly adjusting the first converter, thereby to generate the second converter.

20 Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the step of nonlinearly adjusting includes the step of smoothly adjusting the first converter, thereby to generate the second converter.

Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the method includes the step of enabling the first converter to perform gray component replacement.

25 Additionally in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the method includes the step of performing color correction after the step of generating.

There is also provided, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, apparatus for producing a large gamut output image including a memory storing an input digital representation of a color image in a three color input space, and a converter which converts an input digital representation in an input color space to an output digital representation in an at least five color output space.

30 Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the apparatus includes an unsharp mask filter, providing input to the converter, for sharpening the input digital representation.

Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the at least five color color space includes a no more than seven color output space.

35 Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the unsharp mask filter is operative to create first and second separately sharpened input representations and wherein the converter includes means for converting the first and second input representations to first and second output representations, defined in approximately complementary color spaces, wherein the first and second output representations together form the output digital representation in the at least five-color output space.

40 Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the unsharp mask filters operate with two different sets of parameters.

Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the second input representation is more sharply masked than the first input representation.

Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the 5 colors includes at least one of a redlike color, a greenlike color or a bluelike color.

45 Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the 5 colors includes at least one of the following colors: orange, green and violet.

50 Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the step of printing includes the step of preparing half-tone separations having screen angles wherein the screen angles for the cyan-like, magenta-like, yellow-like and black-like half-tone separations include first, second, third and fourth screen angles, respectively, and the screen angles for the red-like, green-like and blue-like half-tone separations include mutually distinct ones from among the first, second, third and fourth screen angles.

Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the input digital representation represents an input medium.

55 Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the apparatus also includes a monitor and a conversion-to-monitor color space unit for converting the output digital representation for display on the monitor.

Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the converter includes a LookUp Table (LUT).

Additionally in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the apparatus also includes an output device operative to print the color image from the output digital representation in cyan-like, magenta-like, yellow-like, black-like colors and in at least one of the following group of colors: red-like, green-like and blue-like.

5 Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the apparatus includes a scanner for prescanning an input medium to provide the input digital representation and an image and LUT manipulator for modifying the LUT in accordance with user input, wherein the scanner also is operative to re-scan the input medium to produce a new input digital representation and the converter is operative to convert the new input digital representation with the modified LUT.

10 There is also provided, in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, apparatus for producing a converter for converting an input digital representation in an input color space to an output digital representation in an at least five color output space, the apparatus including means for receiving a first converter being operative to perform transformations from an input color space to a four color output space, and a converter generating unit operative to generate a second converter from the first converter, the second converter being operative to perform transformations from the input color space to an at least five color output space including the four colors and at least one extra color.

Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the converter generating unit includes means for nonlinearly adjusting the first converter, thereby to generate the second converter.

20 Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the means for nonlinearly adjusting includes means for smoothly adjusting the first converter, thereby to generate the second converter.

Additionally in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the apparatus includes a GCR unit operative to enable the first converter to perform grey color replacement.

Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the apparatus includes a color correction unit receiving input from the converter generating unit.

25 Still further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the output device includes means for preparing half-tone separations having screen angles wherein the screen angles for the cyan-like, magenta-like, yellow-like and black-like half-tone separations include first, second, third and fourth screen angles, respectively, and the screen angles for the red-like, green-like and blue-like half-tone separations include mutually distinct ones from among the first, second, third and fourth screen angles.

30 Further in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the no more than seven color output space includes a five, six or seven color output space.

The term "rescanning" in the present specification typically refers to modification of an existing digital representation of a color image rather than to physically rescanning a color image from a physical substrate to obtain a new digital representation of the color image.

35 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention will be understood and appreciated more fully from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the drawings and appendices in which:

- 40 Fig. 1 is a color illustration of a color image generated using prior art four-color printing techniques;
 Fig. 2 is a diagram of a printable color space, constructed and operative in accordance with the present invention, which uses more than four printing inks, more than three of which are printed at individual locations;
 45 Fig. 3 is a block diagram illustration of a system, constructed and operative in accordance with the present invention, for producing output prints using more than four colors;
 Fig. 4 is a color illustration of the color image of Fig. 1, generated using the more-than-four-color printing technique of the present invention;
 Fig. 5 is a block diagram illustration of a system for generating a converter useful in the system of Fig. 4;
 Fig. 6 is a hue-saturation diagram;
 50 Figs. 7A and 7B are diagrams of transformations useful in implementing the system of Fig. 5;
 Fig. 8 is a block diagram of a system which is a modification of the system of Fig. 3;
 Fig. 9A is a color illustration of a four-color subimage, generated using the apparatus of Fig. 8, which represents the color image of Figs. 1 and 5 when taken together with the subimage of Fig. 9B;
 55 Fig. 9B is a color illustration of a three-color subimage, generated using the apparatus of Fig. 8, which represents the color image of Figs. 1 and 5 when taken together with the subimage of Fig. 9A; and
 Appendix A is a computer listing of a best mode method for receiving a LUT such as LUT 40 of Fig. 5 and constructing LUTs 84 and 86 of Fig. 5.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PRESENT INVENTION

Fig. 1 is a prior art figure which is described in the above Background section of the specification.

The present invention is operative to provide a representation of a color image in a color space based on at least five colors. In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the at least five color color space is based on:

- a. Four colors, termed herein "CMYK-like" colors or "CMYK" colors or "basic" colors, which typically include three colors which approximately span the printing color space and which typically although not necessarily resemble cyan, magenta and yellow, respectively; and a fourth black-like color; and
- b. One, two or three additional colors, termed herein "RGB"-like or "RGB" or "extra" colors, comprising one, two or three colors from among a set of three colors which approximately span the printing color space and which typically approximately complement the CMY-like "basic" colors. The three extra colors are typically respectively redlike, bluelike and greenlike in appearance. The terms "redlike", "bluelike" and "greenlike" are intended here to be interpreted broadly and to include, for example, orange, green and violet (OGV colors), respectively.

Sample CMYK inks are the conventional toners manufactured by Dupont deNemours GmbH of Neu-Isenberg, Germany. Sample RGB inks are also manufactured by Dupont deNemours GmbH of the following toners: red formed of 90% RRT and 10% OF1, green formed of 45% GGT4, 50% GF1 and 5% YY6, and blue formed of 70% BBT5, 15% MF1 and 15% TW6.

Fig. 2 is a diagram of a printable color space, constructed and operative in accordance with the present invention, which uses more than four printing inks, more than three of which are printed at individual locations.

Specifically, Fig. 2 illustrates a two-dimensional plot of x and y color coordinates, at the origin of the Y axis. The entire visible spectrum, having wavelengths varying from 380 nm - 770 nanometers, is indicated by a curve 10 having an interior 12. The luminance quality, or the effect of black on the space 12, corresponds to an axis which perpendicularly intersects the plot of Fig. 2.

The visible color space 12 is not printable in its entirety when the four CMYK colors are employed. In Fig. 2, an approximate gamut of a printing press which utilizes the more-than-four-color scheme of the present invention is indicated by a surrounding dotted line 20. The approximate gamut of a printing press which utilizes a conventional four-color scheme is indicated by a surrounding solid line 17. Gamuts 17 and 20 of Fig. 2 are only approximations of the actual gamuts since the gamut of a press, in actual practice, is affected by idiosyncratic factors such as printing stock and printing method.

Reference is now made to Fig. 3 which is a block diagram illustration of a system, constructed and operative in accordance with the present invention, for producing output prints using more than four colors. The input image to the system of Fig. 3 typically has 3 color components and is also termed herein the original RGB image or the RGB_{in} image, although it need not necessarily be represented in RGB. The input image may, for example, take the form of a memory storing a digital representation 24 provided by pre-scanning a hard copy, using a electronic color separation scanner such as Scitex's Smart Scanner or may, for example, be an input representation of an image in a 3-component input color space, arriving from a storage medium.

The memory may comprise any suitable device from which a digital image may be retrieved, such as but not limited to a computer disk, a magnetic tape, an magneto-optical disk, an optical disk such as a compact disk, either local or, alternatively, remotely disposed and connected to the remaining components of the apparatus, as via a network. The memory may be accessed either directly or via a RAM.

A particular feature of the system of Fig. 3 is that a converter-to-more-than-four-coordinates 30 is provided which receives an input digital representation of an image in a three component color coordinate system, such as RGB, and provides an output digital representation in an at least five coordinate, color coordinate system. The input and output digital representations each comprise a multiplicity of pixels, wherein a pixel has corresponding color density values.

For each pixel of the input digital representation 24, which may, for example, comprise an RGB image, the converter 30 directly converts the input digital values to a large gamut output image 33 including a multiplicity of output digital values including both basic and extra color components. Converter 30 may be implemented as a LookUp Table (LUT) comprising a plurality of cells each including an address and a contents. The LUT is preferably stored on a suitable hardware memory element such as the image processor board of the Scitex Smart Scanner, as described in more detail hereinbelow. Typically, the LUT does not process neighboring pixels to determine the output digital values of a current pixel, except in that interpolation may be required to determine the output digital values of the current pixel. Alternatively, converter 30 may be implemented as a computation unit in a CPU.

Apparatus for generating a converter 30 is described herein in detail with reference to Fig. 5.

Optionally, before conversion by converter 30, the input digital representation 24 may be processed by an

unsharp mask filter 31 which is operative to sharpen the details of the input image 24, thereby to provide a sharpened image 29. Conventional unsharp masking is described in detail in chapter 15 of the above-referenced publication by Molla.

5 The output digital representation 33 is provided to a plotter or imagesetter 32, such as the Dolev plotter, commercially available from Scitex Corporation Ltd. of Herzlia, Israel. The plotter 32 prepares, from the output digital representation, at least five half-tone color separations (not shown), one for each one of the inks to be printed. The plotter 32 then plots the separations, producing thereby a set 35 of at least five color separation films.

10 Alternatively, plotter 32 may be replaced by a proofer, such as one of the proofers manufactured by Iris Graphics, Inc. of Bedford, Ma., U.S.A.

The following is a sample set of screen angles that has been found effective for more than four color printing:

Cyan and Red:	112.5°
Magenta and Green:	-7.5°
15 Yellow:	97.5°
Black and Blue:	52.5°

The color separation films 35 are provided to a printing press 34 which prints a large gamut output print 36 therefrom. A sample output print 36, illustrating the same color image illustrated in Fig. 1 but in more than four colors, resulting in a sharper, better defined image, is illustrated in Fig. 4.

20 The apparatus of Fig. 3 optionally comprises a large gamut image manipulator 37 which performs conventional color corrections on the LUTs of four color converter 30 and/or on the large gamut output image 33. The color correction functionalities of manipulator 37 may be similar to those of color correction unit 90 of Fig. 5 which is described in detail below.

25 The image manipulation device 37 is also preferably operative to perform cropping, rotation, using specialized filters, and other image manipulations operations which are known in the art in response to commands from a user. For color correction operations, gradations, grey component replacement (GCR), under color removal and addition (UCR and UCA), the image manipulation device 37 modifies the converter 30.

30 Due to the direct correspondence between the input and output representations, the image manipulation device 37 can perform the full range of color manipulations and, in some cases, can increase the gamut of the output print. This is in contrast to certain state of the art systems which manipulate an input image provided in an ink-based output color space.

When the user has finished manipulating the converter 30, the input image is reconverted, using the converter 30 after manipulation by manipulator 37, and a final large gamut digital representation 33 is produced. For example, if the input image is provided by a scanning device, the input medium is typically rescanned and the output of the scanning device is converted utilizing the converter 30 after manipulation by manipulator 37.

35 Alternatively, the input image may be manipulated directly by the manipulator 37, rather than being converted by the converter 30 which has been manipulated by manipulator 37.

40 The apparatus of Fig. 3 also preferably comprises a monitor 38 for on-line display of a representation of the large gamut output image 36. A converter-to-monitor-RGB 39 is operative to convert the more-than-four color representation of image 36 into the coordinates of the monitor. The converter-to-monitor-RGB unit 39 may, for example, be implemented on the VIP2 board of a Scitex Whisper workstation.

Fig. 5 is a block diagram illustration of a system for generating a LUT 88 which is suitable for implementing converter 30 of Fig. 3.

45 The apparatus of Fig. 5 includes a conventional lookup table 40 which is operative to convert input RGB values, labeled RGB_{in} , to conventional four color output, such as but not limited to conventional CMYK output, as indicated by the label $CMYK_{conv}$. The $CMYK_{conv}$ output of LUT 40 is received by an optional grey color replacer (GCR) 42 which is operative to modify the output values of each cell in LUT 40 such that black color is used to provide grey values. Conventional GCR techniques are described in detail in Chapter 14 of the above-referenced publication by Molla.

50 The output of GCR 42, comprising $CMYK(GCR)_{conv}$ output, may be provided to units 46 and 48, both of which are described in more detail below. Preferably, however, a single GCR LUT 44 is constructed which has the functionalities of LUT 40 and GCR unit 42 combined and which therefore replaces LUT 40 and GCR unit 42. According to this embodiment, units 46 and 48 receive $CMYK(GCR)_{conv}$ output from GCR LUT 44.

55 Alternatively, the GCR elements may be omitted and units 46 and 48 may receive $CMYK_{conv}$ output directly from LUT 40.

Units 46 and 70 employ the $CMYK(GCR)_{conv}$ output or the $CMYK_{conv}$ output, both of which are referred to generally below as $CMYK_{conv}$ output, to generate, in a two stage procedure, a LUT 84 which receives an input digital image in RGB_{in} and creates a digital image in the "RGB" color coordinate system. In the first stage, the

RGB_{ori} values are linearly transformed by linear transformation generator 46 to obtain a preliminary "RGB" representation, also termed herein the E_i representation. In the second stage, the preliminary "RGB" or E_i representation is adjusted by nonlinear "RGB" color density adjuster 70 for nonlinearities. The output of the second stage is a nonlinear transformation from RGB_{ori} directly to the final "RGB" representation, which nonlinear transformation is stored in LUT 84.

Units 48 and 72 employ the CMYK(GCR)_{conv} output or the CMYK_{conv} output, both of which are referred to generally below as CMYK_{conv} output, to generate, in a two stage procedure, a LUT 86 which receives an input digital image in RGB_{ori} and creates a digital image in the "CMYK" color coordinate system. In the first stage, the RGB_{ori} values are linearly transformed by linear transformation generator 48 to obtain a preliminary "CMYK" representation, also termed herein the L_i representation. In the second stage, the preliminary "CMYK" or L_i representation is adjusted by nonlinear "CMYK" color density adjuster 72 for non-linearities. The output of the second stage is a nonlinear transformation from RGB_{ori} directly to the final "CMYK" representation, which nonlinear transformation is stored in LUT 86.

For example, E_i values may be generated as follows:

$$E_i = \sum_j \alpha_{ij} (\text{CMYK}_{\text{conv}})_j$$

where:

$$j = 1, 2, 3, 4;$$

$$i = 1, 2, 3;$$

(CMYK_{conv})_j = the j'th component of a set of conventional or GCR-conventional C, M, Y and K components; and

the alpha values all satisfy $-1.0 \leq \alpha_{ij} \leq 1.0$ and may, for example, have the following values:

$$\begin{vmatrix} -0.45 & 0.55 & 0.53 & 0.0 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$\alpha_{ij} = \begin{vmatrix} 0.60 & -0.40 & 0.60 & 0.0 \\ 0.45 & 0.45 & -0.60 & -0.2 \end{vmatrix}$$

For example, L_i values may be generated as follows:

$$L_i = \sum_j \beta_{ij} (\text{CMYK}_{\text{conv}})_j$$

where

$$j = 1, 2, 3, 4;$$

$$i = 1, 2, 3, 4;$$

(CMYK_{conv})_j = the j'th component of a set of conventional or GCR-conventional C, M, Y and K components; and

the beta values satisfy $-1.0 \leq \beta_{ij} \leq 1.0$. Sample values for the β_{ij} are:

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{ij} &= 0.9 \text{ for } i = j \\ &= 0.0 \text{ otherwise} \end{aligned}$$

More generally, generator 46 determines, for each cell in GCR LUT 44, the extent of the extra colors needed, over and above the basic colors.

Generator 46 is only operative to determine the amount of extra "RGB" color needed. Generator 48 is operative to adjust, or typically to reduce, the amount of "CMYK" color needed in response to the addition of the extra "RGB" color.

Generator 48 determines, for each cell in LUT 44, a suitable amount of each basic color from among the basic "CMYK" colors, given the amount of extra ink to be employed.

Units 46 and 48 generate transformations, represented in Fig. 5 as LUTs 50 and 52 respectively although in practice it is not necessary to represent these transformations as LUTs. LUT 50 transforms RGB_{ori} values into E_i values. LUT 52 transforms RGB_{ori} values into L_i values.

The output of LUTs 50 and 52, E_i and L_i respectively, are provided to nonlinear color density adjusters 70 and 72, respectively, which generate adjusted extra color values, termed herein "RGB" values, and adjusted

basic color values, termed herein "CMYK" values, respectively.

Despite the compensation of inks provided by generators 46 and 48, LUTs 50 and 52 produce output representations requiring too much ink, per pixel, to be used in the output print 36. Therefore, LUTs 50 and 52 are provided to respective nonlinear color density adjusters 70 and 72 which nonlinearly adjust the color density levels in the output representations generated by LUTs 50 and 52 respectively.

Nonlinear color density adjuster 70 replaces the extra color density values with adjusted values, in accordance with the curve shown in Fig. 7A. The curve of Fig. 7A graphs input color density with output color density, for the extra colors. If the color density adjuster did not operate, the dotted curve 74 would be operative. Typically, the extra colors are useful only at their higher densities. At their lower densities, the combination of the basic colors provides acceptable colors. Thus, the curves of Fig. 7A tend to be far from curve 74 at the low densities and close to it at the high densities.

Ink density adjuster 70 may perform any type of nonlinear operation; for example, it might operate in accordance with an exponential curve 76, or over only a small range, as shown by curve 78. Any form of curve which is below curve 74 is suitable, as long as the minimum and maximum values of color density are not affected.

Density adjuster 70 may, for example, perform the following computation in order to generate "RGB" components from E_i components:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{"RGB"}_{ij} &= D_i [(E_j - t_i) / (100 - t_i)]^{s(i)}, & E_j > t_i \\ &= q_i E_j & E_j \leq t_i \end{aligned}$$

where:

$i = 1, 2, 3;$

D_i and t_i are predetermined integer color percentages, such as 100 and 30 percent, respectively, for all i ; and

$s(i)$ and q_i are real numbers, such as 1.01 and 1.0, respectively, for all i .

Ink density adjuster 72 performs any type of adjustment operation. Three sample adjustment curves 82 are provided in Fig. 7B. The curve of Fig. 7B graphs input color density with output color density, for the basic colors. If the color density adjuster did not operate, the dotted curve 80 would be operative. Typically, the basic colors are most useful at their lower densities. At their higher densities, the extra colors provide the high quality color. Thus, the curves of Fig. 7B tend to be close to curve 80 at the low densities and far from it at the high densities.

Density adjuster 72 may, for example, perform the following computation in order to generate "CMYK" values from L_i values:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{"CMYK"}_{ij} &= u_i L_j + (D_i' - 100) [(L_j - t_i') / (100 - t_i')]^{w(i)}, & L_j > t_i' \\ &= v_i L_j & L_j \leq t_i' \end{aligned}$$

where:

$i = 1, 2, 3$ or $i = 1, 2, 3, 4;$

$j = t_i', t_i'+1, \dots, D_i' (D_i' \geq t_i')$

D_i' and t_i' are predetermined percent color density values; and

$w(i)$, u_i and v_i are real numbers.

For example, the output of adjuster 72 may be CMY values ($i = 1, 2, 3$) and the following values may be used for the various parameters, for all i : D_i' is 85 percent color density, t_i' is 10 percent color density, $w(i)$ is 0.3, u_i is 1.0 and v_i is 1.0.

Ink density adjusters 70 and 72 generate LUTs 84 and 86 respectively. LUT 84 transforms RGB_{out} values to "RGB" values. LUT 86 transforms RGB_{out} values to "CMYK" values. Together, LUTs 84 and 86 provide a conversion from RGB_{out} to "RGBCMYK". LUTs 84 and 86 may be combined to a single LUT 88, the output of which is a concatenation of the outputs of LUTs 84 and 86.

LUTs 84 and 86 may, if desired, be updated or modified through the use of a color correction unit 90, such as the color correction unit marketed by Scitex Corporation together with Scitex's Smart Scanner. The color correction unit 90 modifies the "RGBCMYK" values as requested by a user. The user might request a global color change, in which case, the contents of many of the cells in the LUTs 84 and 86, or, if they have been combined, in LUT 88, are modified. Local color corrections, operative in a portion of the color space rather than in the entire color space, can also be effected.

Conventional color correction techniques are described in chapter 10 of the above referenced publication by Molla.

Units 46, 48, 70 and 72 may, for example be based on a suitable CPU or other processing unit such as a Whisper workstation equipped with HSP boards, commercially available from Scitex Corporation.

Fig. 6 is a saturation vs. hue graph which conceptually illustrates the areas of influence of two sample basic colors, cyan and magenta, and the extra color whose hue is between them, which is, in this case, blue. Fig. 6 illustrates curves 54 and 56, for cyan and magenta, respectively, which overlap in an area 58. In this area, both cyan and magenta are utilized to produce a color.

Given that the hues of the extra colors typically lie between the hues of the basic printing colors, generally, the hue of each extra color ("RGB") is traditionally represented by a combination of the basic colors ("CMYK"), as shown in the hue-saturation diagram of Fig. 6. However, the saturation of the extra colors is much larger.

In Fig. 6, the blue color is utilized for all colors falling within the area under the blue curve 60. Those within a section 62 are produced with blue color only, those within a section 64 with cyan and blue, those within a section 66 with magenta and blue, and those within area 58, with cyan, magenta and blue.

The extra color curve 60, which is a blue curve in the example of Fig. 6, is designed to smoothly generate more saturated colors as one varies the densities of the cyan, blue and magenta inks. Similar curves characterize other extra colors such as red and green. This smoothness constraint is implemented by ensuring that partial differentials of the above equations defining "RGB" and "CMYK", for the E_i 's and L_i 's in the area around t_i or t_i' , exist.

It will be appreciated that the apparatus shown hereinabove is not restricted to applications in which there are three extra colors but is also useful for applications in which there are only one or two extra colors. In these applications, there are only one or two E_i values and only one or two components from among the "R", "G" and "B" extra color components. The number of L_i values and the number of basic color components remains unchanged, although the values themselves might change.

Reference is now made to Fig. 8 which is a modification of the apparatus of Fig. 3 in which the more-than-four-color converter 30 is replaced by a basic color converter 110 and an extra color converter 112. As described above, the more-than-four-color converter 30 of Fig. 3 typically converts an input image including a plurality of basic color components into an output image including the same plurality of basic color components, having different values, and also including a plurality of extra color components.

In Fig. 8, however, extra color converter 112 converts an input image 105 including a plurality of conventional color components into an output subimage, referenced as "RGB" image 113 in Fig. 8, which includes only a plurality of extra color components and not the original, conventional color components. Basic color converter 110 converts an input image including a plurality of conventional color components into an output subimage, referenced "CMYK" image 115 in Fig. 8, which includes the same plurality of basic color components, having values which take into account the role of the plurality of extra color components.

Basic and extra color converters 110 and 112 may respectively comprise LUTs 86 and 84 of Fig. 5, respectively.

Preferably, the processing route of Fig. 3, which includes unsharp masking, color conversion, image manipulation and monitor display is replaced, in the embodiment of Fig. 8, by two processing routes.

The embodiment of Fig. 8 is particularly suitable for applications in which a system is only capable of operating on digital representations of four or fewer values per pixel, because it allows the input representation 24 to be separately processed to produce basic color and extra color output representations. Preferably, there is only one system and the two processing routes occur sequentially; however, Fig. 8 presents the processing as occurring in a parallel manner, i.e. two unsharp maskers, color converters, image manipulators and converters to monitor-RGB are provided, as described in more detail below, one for each processing route.

As shown, unsharp masking unit 31 of Fig. 3 is preferably replaced by two unsharp mask filters 106 and 108 which are operative to sharpen the details of input representation 24 to different extents. Unsharp masker 108, corresponding to the "extra color component" processing route, typically provides greater sharpening than USM 106. Thus, the extra color will be utilized to sharpen the details of the output print. If the processing is sequential, USMs 106 and 108 are implemented as a single USM having two parameter sets.

Converters 110 and 112 are typically modified, in response to user commands, by respective image manipulators 114 and 116, which replace image manipulator 37 of Fig. 3.

Once the desired image manipulations have been performed, the input digital representation is reconverted, via the updated versions of converters 110 and 112 and in accordance with any image modifying parameters, and final output representations 113 and 115 are produced.

If the input digital representation is provided by a scanning device, the input medium is typically rescanned and the output (e.g. the input representation) of the scanning device is converted utilizing the updated converters 110 and 112.

The extra and basic color images 113 and 115 are preferably separately or sequentially displayed on a monitor 102, replacing monitor 38 of Fig. 3. Converter-to-monitor unit 39 of Fig. 3 is replaced by a conventional color image converter 118 which converts the basic color image 115 to monitor coordinates and by an extra color image converter 120 which converts the extra color image 113 to monitor coordinates.

The final output representations 113 and 115 are provided to the plotter 32, as described hereinabove with respect to Fig. 3, and the color separation films produced thereby are provided to the press 34, for producing the large gamut print 36.

In Figs. 3, 5 and 8, units of the systems respectively illustrated in these figures are represented by rectangular blocks whereas representations of the input image as successively processed are represented by curved blocks.

Fig. 9A is a color illustration of a four-color subimage, generated using the "basic color component" processing route of Fig. 8. Fig. 9B is a color illustration of a three-color subimage, generated using the "extra color component" processing route of Fig. 8. The two subimages of Figs. 9A and 9B together include substantially the same information as does the 7-color image of Fig. 4.

It can be seen that Fig. 9A is quite similar to Fig. 1, but that its colors are somewhat less saturated. Fig. 9B indicates the locations where the extra colors are to be placed, which correspond to the portions of Fig. 4 which are sharper than in Fig. 1.

It will be appreciated that the systems of Figs. 3 and 8 are operative for applications in which input media is scanned and the data converted to more than four color output representations, as well as applications in which already scanned input representations in a 3-component input color space are received.

It is appreciated that the invention shown and described herein may generate representations in more than 4 colors from representations in any color space. Sample sources for light-based color space representations are image creation and/or manipulation systems such as the Blaze, manufactured by Scitex Corporation or such as PHOTOSHOP, manufactured by Adobe Systems Inc. of Mountainview, Ca., U.S.A.

In order to print the created images, a three-component input space such as a light based color space is typically converted to an output color space based on inks, toners or other color output materials.

The term "printing" as used in the present specification is intended to refer to any process whereby a visually perceptible representation of an image is provided, such as processes employing proofers, presses, imagesetters, pressproofers, and second generation output devices.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that the present invention is not limited to what has been particularly shown and described hereinabove. Rather the scope of the present invention is defined only by the claims which follow:

APPENDIX A

```

#include <local.h>
#include <dtstypdf.h>
#include <debug.h>
#include <glpar.h>
5  #include <rfsif.h>
#include <job.h>
#include <liblist.h>
#include <pspar.h>
#include <ct.h>
#include <uims.h>
10  #include <nucleus.e>
#include <cplm.h>
#include <gksif.h>
#include <wndif.h>
#include <dtst_inc.h>
15  #include <dtscnst.h>
#include <cbasic.h>
#include <pickid.h>
#include <wndif.h>
#include <colcor.h>
#include <math.h>
20  #include <scn_type.h>

#define SEP_SIZE      8192
#define NUM_ENT      5120

extern short *buf_current;      /* 3d lut buffer */
25  extern short *buf_save;      /* " */
extern SCAN_PARAM s_p;         /* dtstypdf.h */
extern PRESCAN_PARAM ps_p;     /* dtstypdf.h */

static short end45 = TRUE;
double cc[4],nc[4],nmc[4];
30  char line[80];
FILE *fp,*fpp,*fopen();
short flag,col7,cmyk[4];
double step1[4][4] = {{-.45,.55,.53,0.},
35  {-.6,-.4,.6,0.},
{.45,.45,-.6,-.2},
{0.,0.,0.,1.0}};

double step2[4][101];

double step3[4][4] = {{1.0,0.,0.,.10},
40  {0.,1.0,0.,.15},
{0.,0.,1.0,.15},
{0.,0.,0.,1.0}};

double step4[4][4] = {{.9,0.,0.,0.},
45  {0.,.9,0.,0.},
{0.,0.,.9,0.},
{0.,0.,0.,1.0}};

double step5[4][101];

60  double exp1,exp5,alf=2.0,bet=.5,stam;
double mix_bal[4] = {1.0,1.0,1.0,1.0}; /* black is redundant! */
double mix_bal_cmy[4] = {1.0,1.0,1.0,1.0}; /* black is redundant! */
double blk_factor[3][4] = {{1.0,1.0,1.0,1.0},
55  {1.0,1.0,1.0,1.0},
{1.0,1.0,1.0,1.0}};
double blk_factor1[4] = {1.0,1.0,1.0,1.0};

```

```

double start=30.,end=100.;
double gr_xyz[256];

5   init_7col()
    {
        lut3d_save(buf_save);
    }

10  callcmyk()
    {
        short err;

        load3d(buf_save);
        lut3d(buf_current);
15  callcmyk_in(buf_current);
        load3d(buf_current);
        dtsdisp(&s_p,&ps_p,NULL,1,&err);
        if(err != 0) handle_exc(err,0,0,NULL);
    }

20  callcmyk_in(buf)
    short *buf;
    {
        short      sep_ptr[4] = { 0,  SEP_SIZE, 2*SEP_SIZE, 3*SEP_SIZE } ;
25  short i, j, s;

        if(bet!=1.)
        {
            for(i=0;i<3;i++)
            {
30          for(j=0;j<101;j++)
                if(j<start+1)
                    step5[i][j]= (double)j;
                else
                    step5[i][j]=
35          (double)j + (end -100.)*pow(((double)j-start)/(100.-
start),bet);
            }
            for(j=0;j<101;j++)
                step5[3][j]= (double)j;
40          }
        else
        {
            fflush(stdout);
            if(alf==1.)
            for(i=0;i<4;i++)
            for(j=0;j<101;j++)
            for(s=0;s<4;s++)
            {
45          step5[i][j]= (double)j;
            }
            for (i=0;i<5120;i++)
            {
80          for (s=0; s<4; s++)
            {
                cc[s] = (double)buf[sep_ptr[s]];
                cc[s] = MAX(MIN((100.-cc[s]/2.55),100.),0.);
            }
55          for (s=0; s<4; s++)
            {

```

```

    nc[s]=0.;
    nnc[s]=0.;
}
5   for (s=0; s<3; s++)
    for (j=0; j<4; j++)
        if(j==s)
            nnc[s] += step4[s][j]/mix_bal_cmy[j]*blk_factor1[j]*cc[j];
        else
            nnc[s] += step4[s][j]*blk_factor1[j]*cc[j];
10  for (j=0; j<4; j++)
    nnc[3] += step4[3][j]*cc[j];

    for (s=0; s<4; s++)
        nc[s] = MIN(MAX(nnc[s],0.),100.);
15  for (s=0; s<4; s++)
    nc[s] = step5[s][(short)nc[s]];

    for (s=0; s<4; s++)
20  buf[sep_ptr[s]++] = (short)(2.55*(100.-nc[s]));
    /* 5120 */
}

callrgb()
25 {
    short err;

    load3d(buf_save);
    lut3d(buf_current);
    callrgb_in(buf_current);
30  load3d(buf_current);
    dtsdisp(&s_p,&ps_p,NULL,1,&err);
    if(err != 0) handle_exc(err,0,0,NULL);
}

35 callrgb_in(buf)
    short *buf;
{
    short sep_ptr[4] = { 0, SEP_SIZE, 2*SEP_SIZE, 3*SEP_SIZE } ;
40  short i, j, s;

    alf = 1.01;
    blk_factor[0][3] = 1.0;
    blk_factor[1][3] = 0.9;
    blk_factor[2][3] = 1.05;
45

    for(i=0;i<3;i++)
    {
        for(j=0;j<101;j++)
            if(j<start+1)
60         step2[i][j] = 0.;
        else
            step2[i][j] = end*(double)pow(((double)j-start)/(100.-start),alf);
    }
    for(j=0;j<101;j++)
65  step2[3][j] = (double)j;

```

```

for (i=0; i<5120; i++)
{
    for (s=0; s<4; s++)
    {
5       cc[s] = (double)buf[sep_ptr[s]];
        cc[s] = MAX(MIN((100.-cc[s]/2.55), 100.), 0.);
    }

    for (s=0; s<4; s++)
10     {
        nc[s]=0.;
        nnc[s]=0.;
    }
    for (s=0; s<4; s++)
        for (j=0; j<4; j++)
15     {
        if(j==s)
            stam = step1[s][j]/mix_bal[j];
        else
            stam = step1[s][j];
        nc[s] += stam*cc[j];
20     }

    for (s=0; s<4; s++)
        nc[s] = MIN(MAX(nc[s], 0.), 100.);

    for (s=0; s<4; s++)
25     nc[s] = step2[s][(short)nc[s]];

    for (s=0; s<3; s++)
        for (j=0; j<4; j++)
            nnc[s] += step3[s][j]*blk_factor[s][j]*nc[j];
30     nnc[3] = 0.;

    for (s=0; s<4; s++)
        buf[sep_ptr[s]++] = (short)(2.55*(100.-nnc[s]));
    }
35 }

original_7col()
{
    short err;

    read3d_save(buf_save);
40     load3d(buf_save);
    dtstdisp(&s_p, &ps_p, NULL, 0, &err);
    if(err != 0) handle_exc(err, 0, 0, NULL);
    return;

45 }

prev_7col()
{
    short err;

    load3d(buf_current);
    dtstdisp(&s_p, &ps_p, NULL, 0, &err);
    if(err != 0) handle_exc(err, 0, 0, NULL);
    return;
55 }

```

```

cmyk_update()
{
    callcmyk();
    write3d_save(buf_current);
5   grad8_end_points(end45);
    return;
}

rgb_update()
10 {
    callrgb();
    write3d_save(buf_current);
    grad8_end_points(end45);
    return;
}

15 Seven_colors(val)    /* Called by IDF. */
short *val;            /* Return :  0 - Close "7 Colors" option,
*/
{
    /*          1 - Open it.          */
20   char line[80];
    short i, line_count;

    init_Cnblock();
    if(SMRT)
    {
25       get_Cnblock_number(12);
        get_Cnline(line);
    }
    else
    {
30       get_Cnblock_number(8);
        line_count = (GEFEN) ? 3 : 4 ;
        for(i = 0; i < line_count; i++)
            get_Cnline(line);
    }
    sscanf(line,"%d",&i);
35   *val = i + 1;
}

cancel7col()
{
40   short err;

    read3d_save(buf_save);
    load3d(buf_save);
    lut3d(buf_current);
    dtadisp(&s_p,&ps_p,NULL,0,&err);
45   if(err != 0) handle_exc(err,0,0,NULL);
    write3d_save(buf_current);
    return;
}

50

```

Claims

1. A method for producing a large gamut output print, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 55 providing an input digital representation of a color image in a three color input space in memory;
 - and
 - converting the input digital representation into an output digital representation of the color image in an at least five color output space.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the at least five color output space comprises a no more than seven color output space.
3. A method according to claim 1 and wherein said at least 5 colors comprises at least one of a redlike color, a greenlike color or a blue-like color.
4. A method according to any of the previous claims and also comprising the step of displaying the output digital representation on a monitor.
5. A method according to any of the previous claims and wherein said step of converting is performed by a LookUp Table (LUT).
6. A method according to claim 1 and also comprising the step of printing said color image from said output digital representation in cyan-like, magenta-like, yellow-like, black-like colors and in at least one of the following group of colors: red-like, green-like and blue-like.
7. A method for producing a converter to convert an input digital representation in an input color space to an output digital representation in an at least five color output space, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a first converter being operative to perform transformations from an input color space to a four color output space; and
 - generating a second converter from the first converter, said second converter being operative to perform transformations from the input color space to an at least five color output space including said four colors and at least one extra color.
8. A method according to claim 14 and wherein said step of generating includes the step of nonlinearly adjusting the first converter, thereby to generate the second converter.
9. Apparatus for producing a large gamut output image comprising:
 - a memory storing an input digital representation of a color image in a three color input space; and
 - a converter which converts an input digital representation in an input color space to an output digital representation in an at least five color output space.
10. Apparatus for producing a converter for converting an input digital representation in an input color space to an output digital representation in an at least five color output space, the apparatus comprising:
 - means for receiving a first converter being operative to perform transformations from an input color space to a four color output space; and
 - a converter generating unit operative to generate a second converter from the first converter, said second converter being operative to perform transformations from the input color space to an at least five color output space including said four colors and at least one extra color.

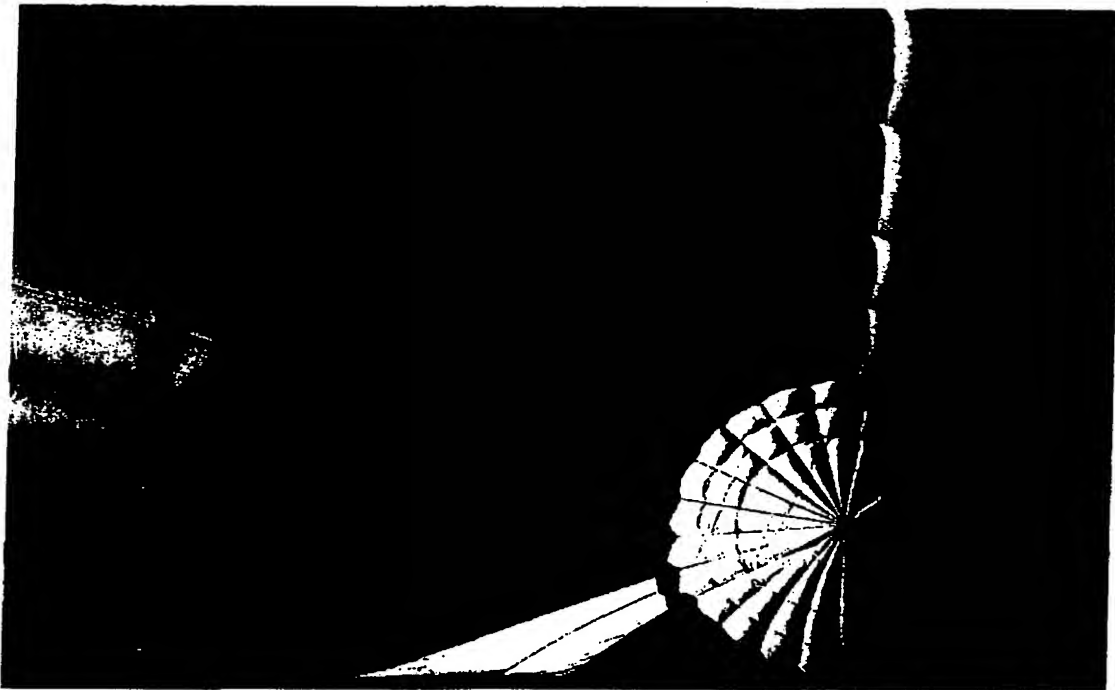


FIG. 1

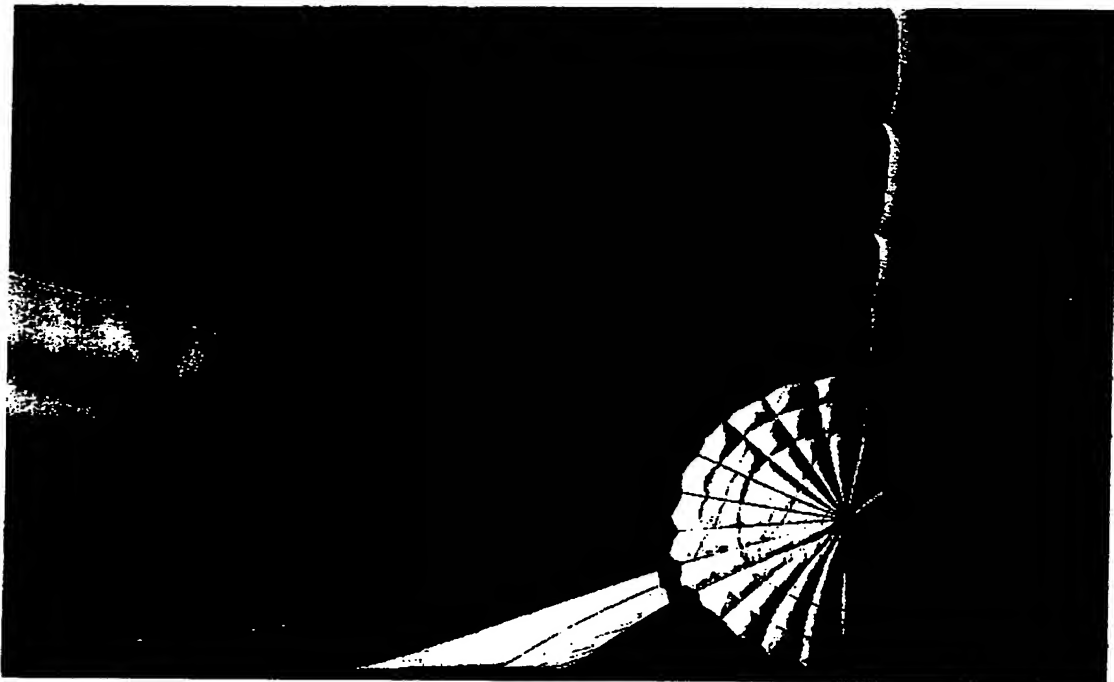


FIG. 4

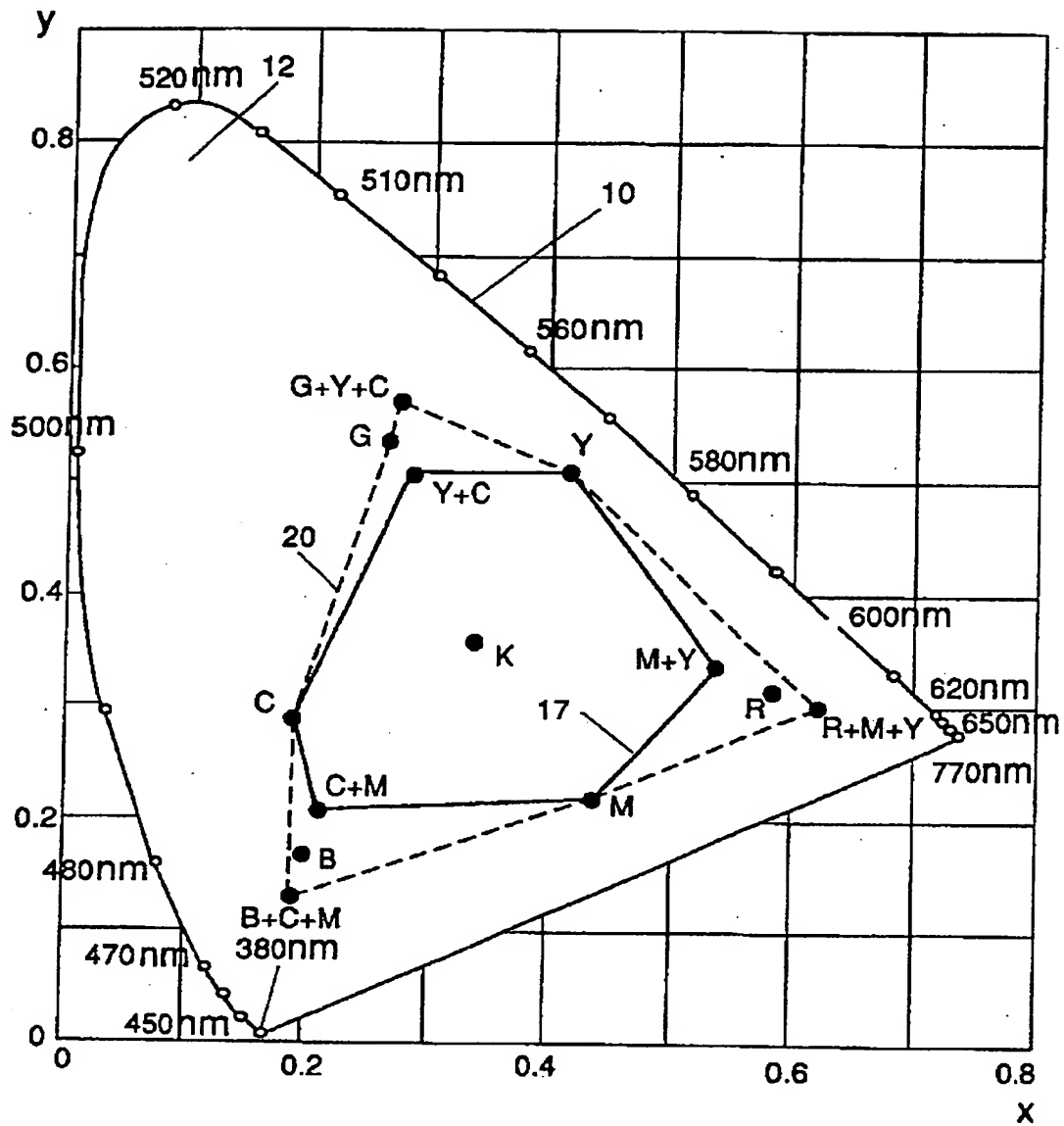


FIG. 2

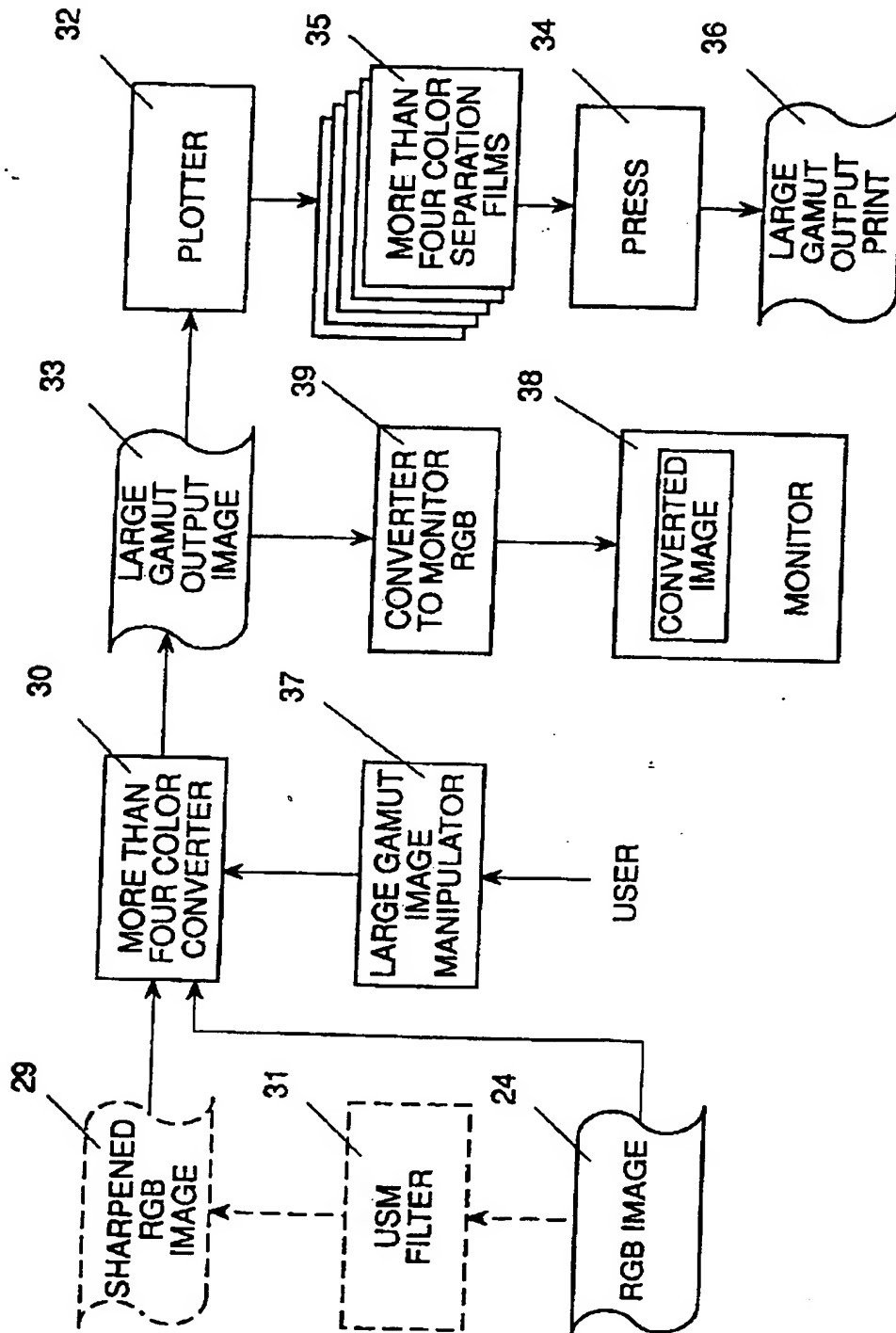


FIG. 3

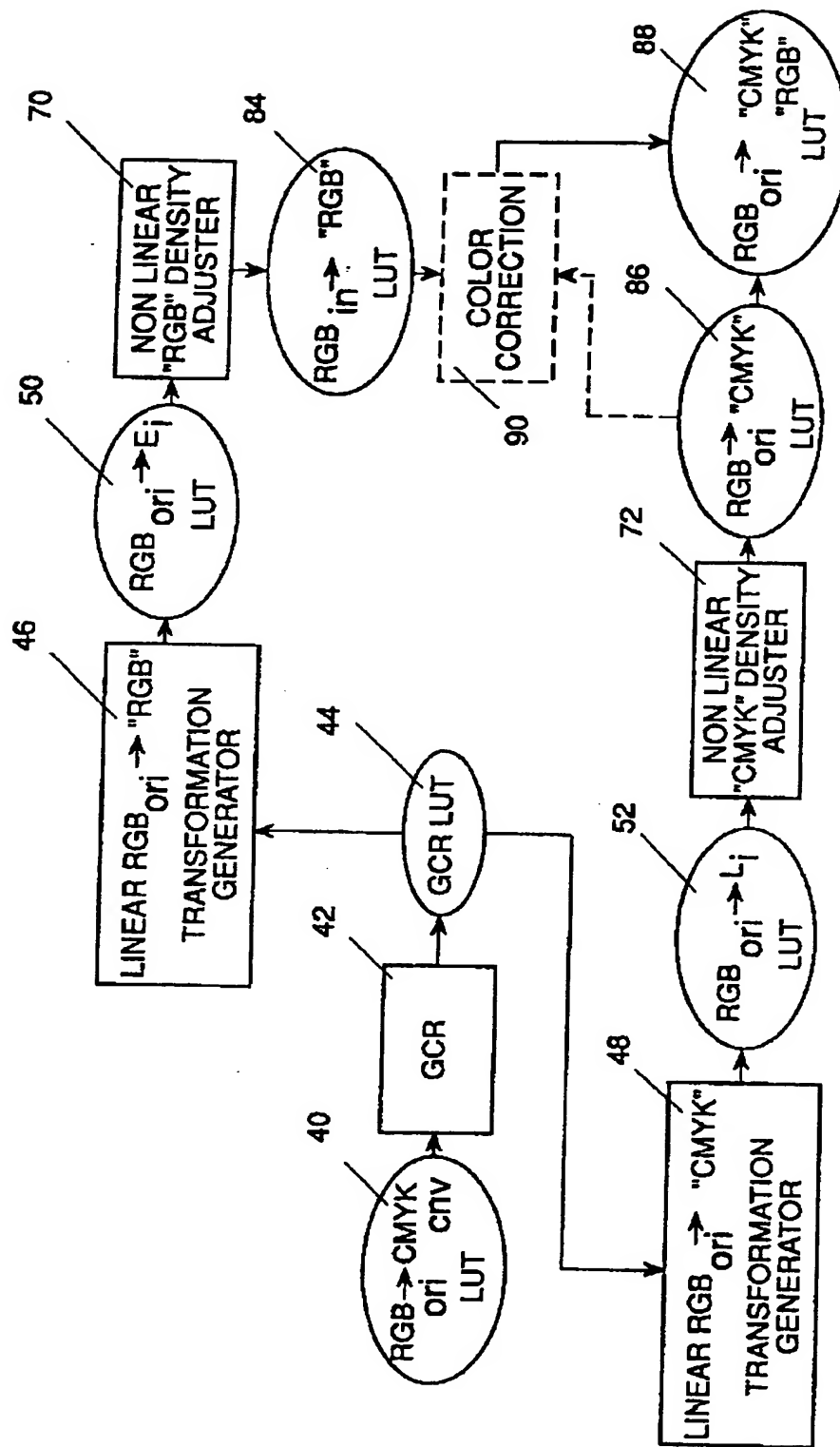


FIG. 5

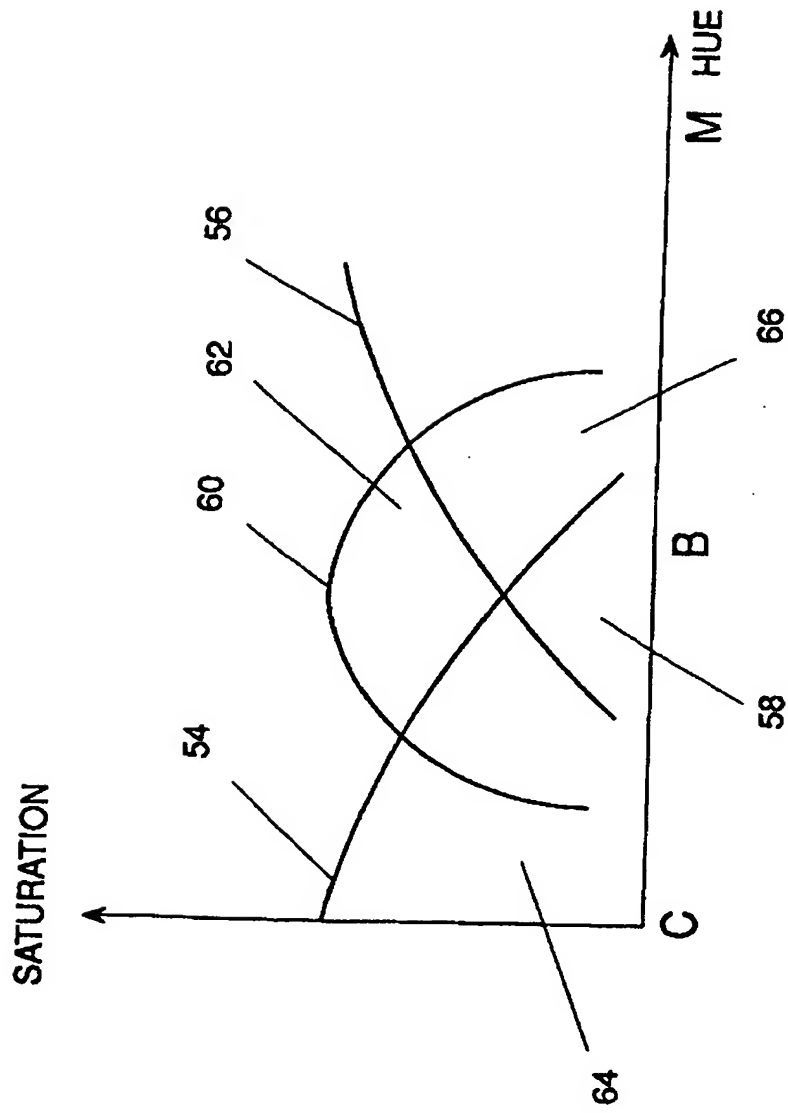


FIG. 6

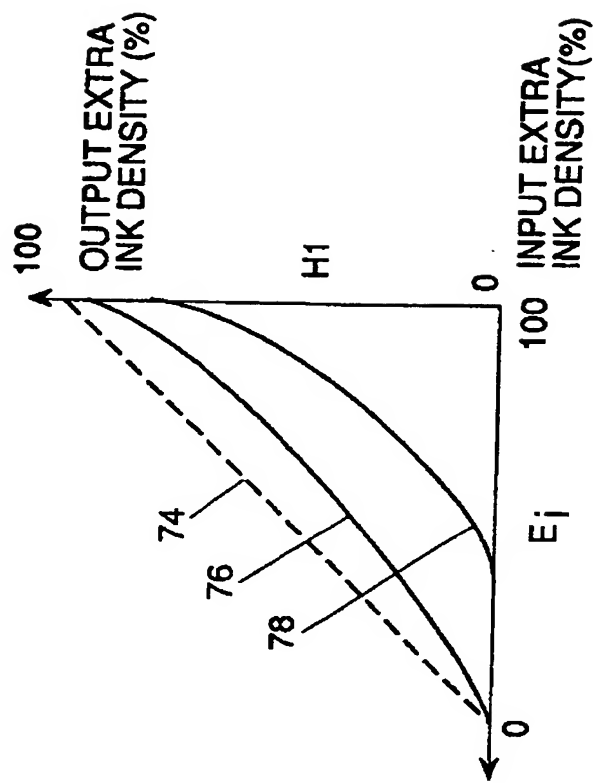


FIG.7A

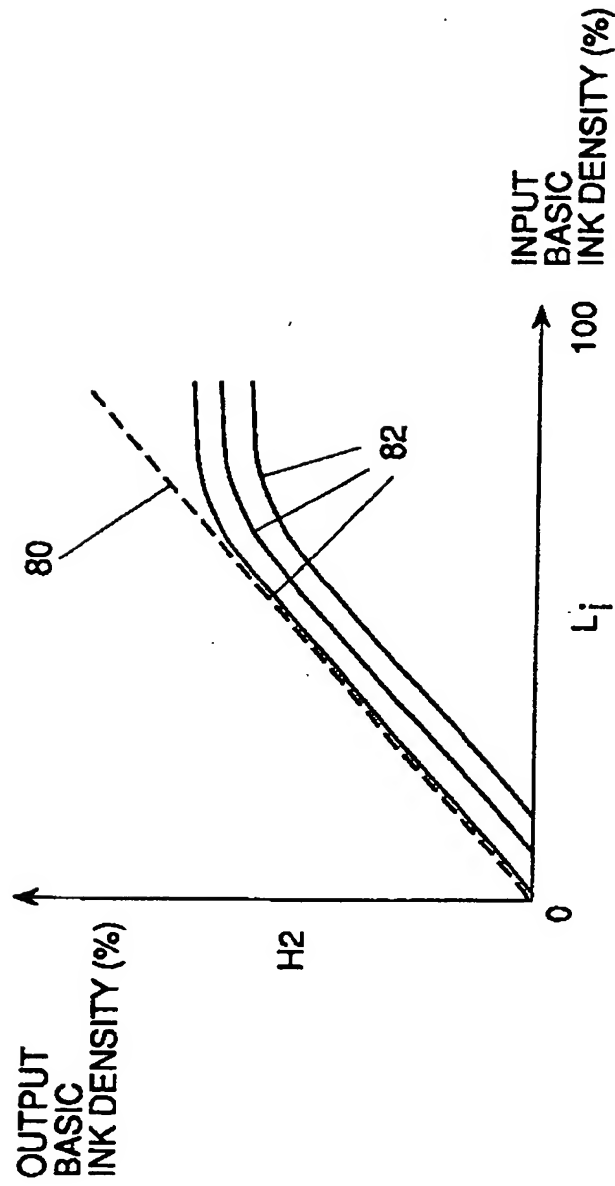


FIG. 7B

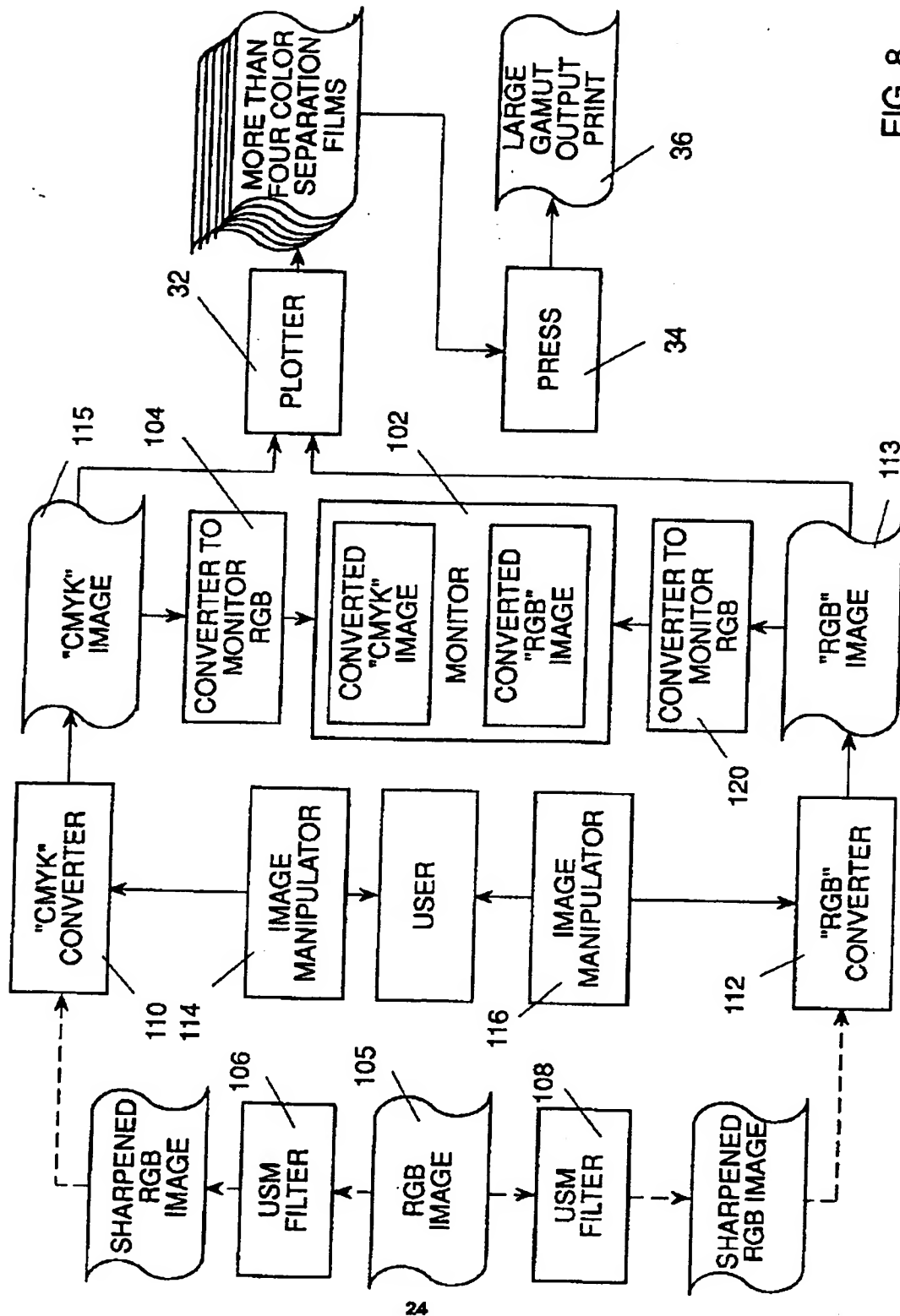


FIG. 8

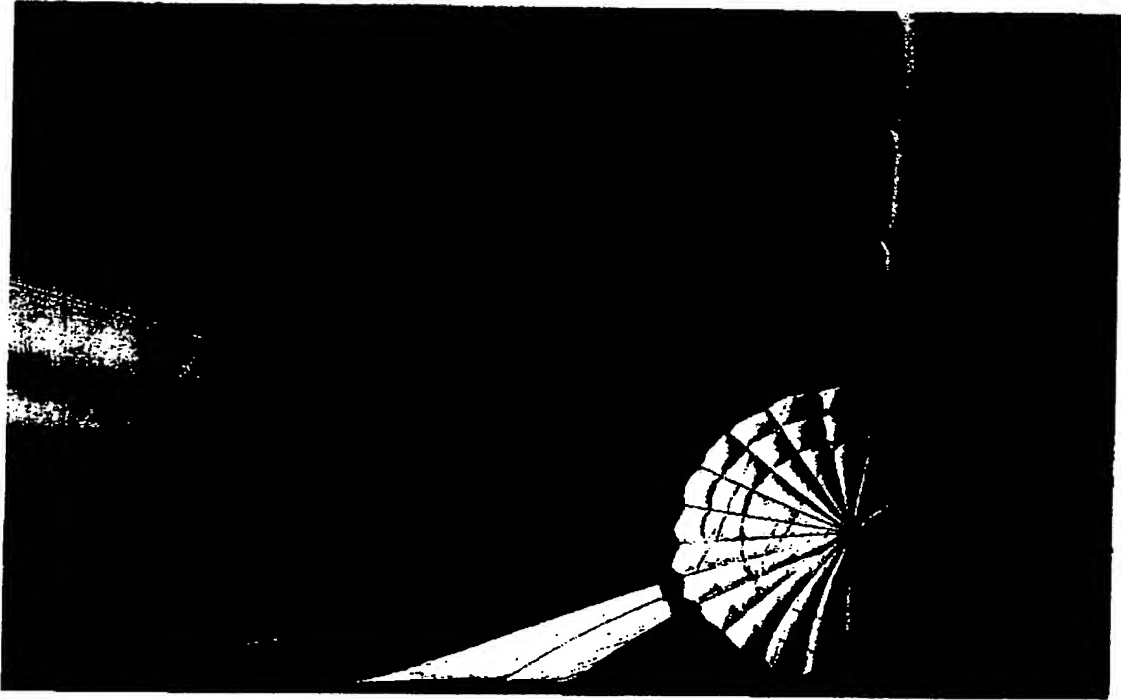


FIG. 9A

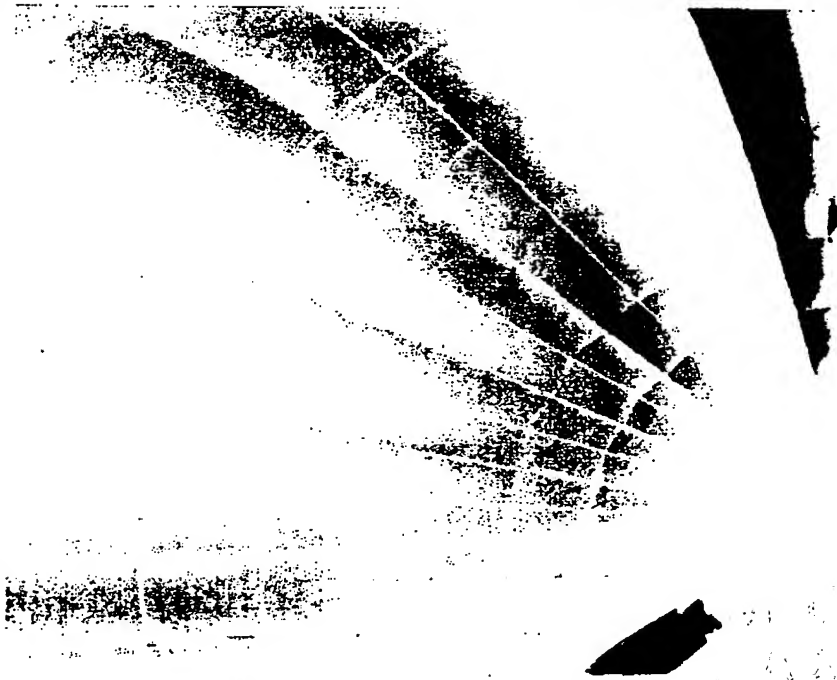


FIG. 9B

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